

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention encompasses novel splice variant forms of the mu-opioid receptor-1 (MOR-1) and the polynucleotide sequences encoding the MOR-1 splice variants. The invention further encompasses methods of screening for compositions regulating the MOR-1 splice variant activities and the development of therapeutic modalities directed to regulating activity. Regulation of the MOR-1 splice variant activities may impact the physiologic process of analgesia.